



National Weather Service Tallahassee, Florida

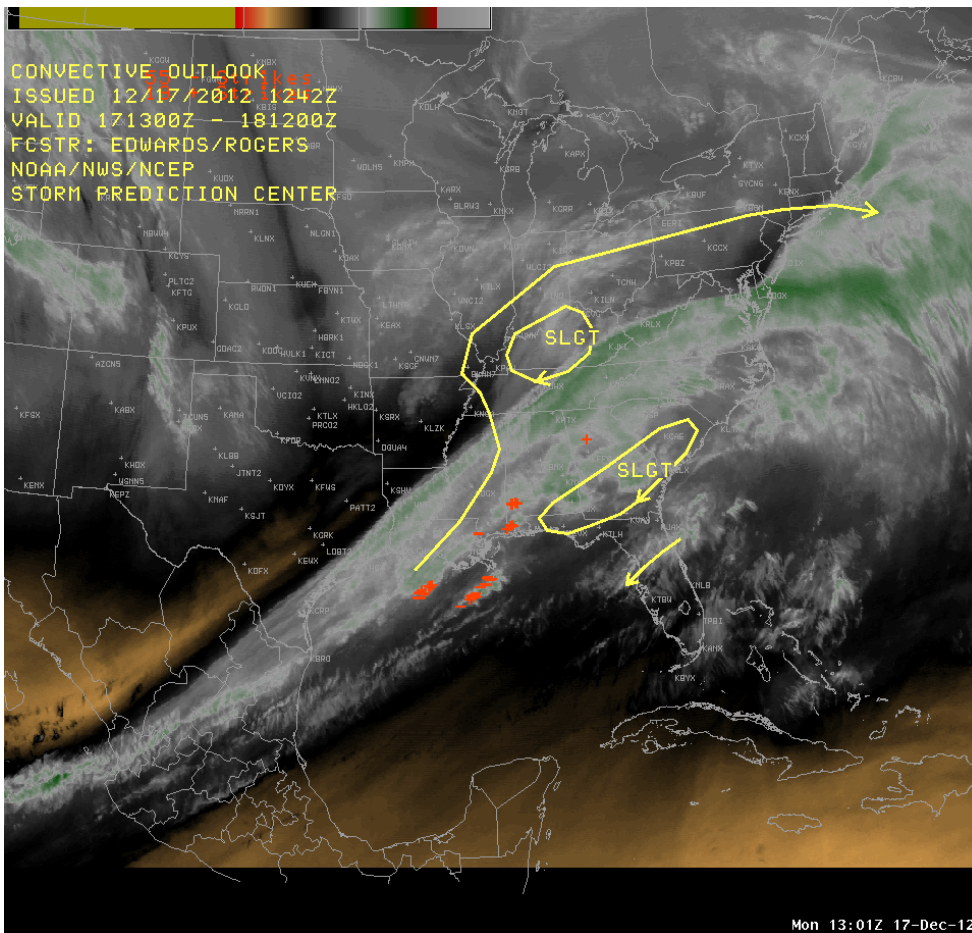


In this update:

- Slight Risk of Severe Thunderstorms Today
- High Risk for Rip Currents Along the Panhandle Coast

Key Points for this event:

- Severe thunderstorms possible mainly during the afternoon hours.

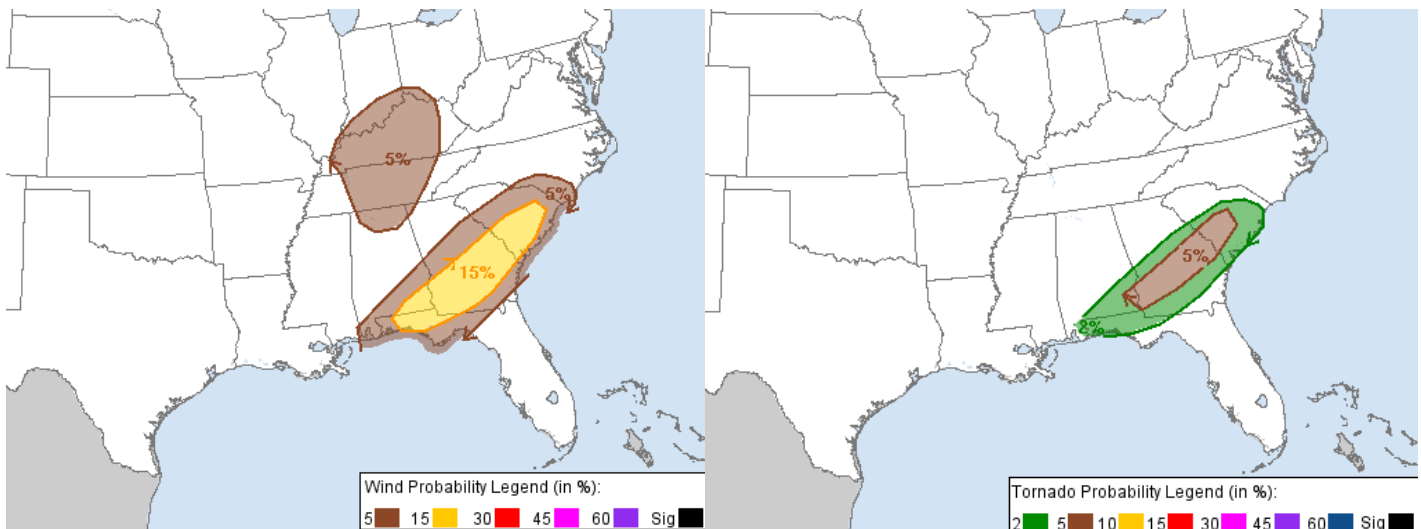


Water vapor image for 1301Z with slight risk area indicated in yellow.

The current weather picture:

An environment of increasing shear will overspread the region today. Shear will be sufficient to support severe weather. The limiting factor will be instability. Abundant cloud cover and morning showers will delay surface destabilization. As an outflow boundary retreats inland, it will be the focus for convection. SPC has outlooked the northwestern 2/3 of the forecast area. Damaging wind gusts will be the primary threat. However, an isolated tornado cannot be ruled out over Southwest Georgia.

The Event:



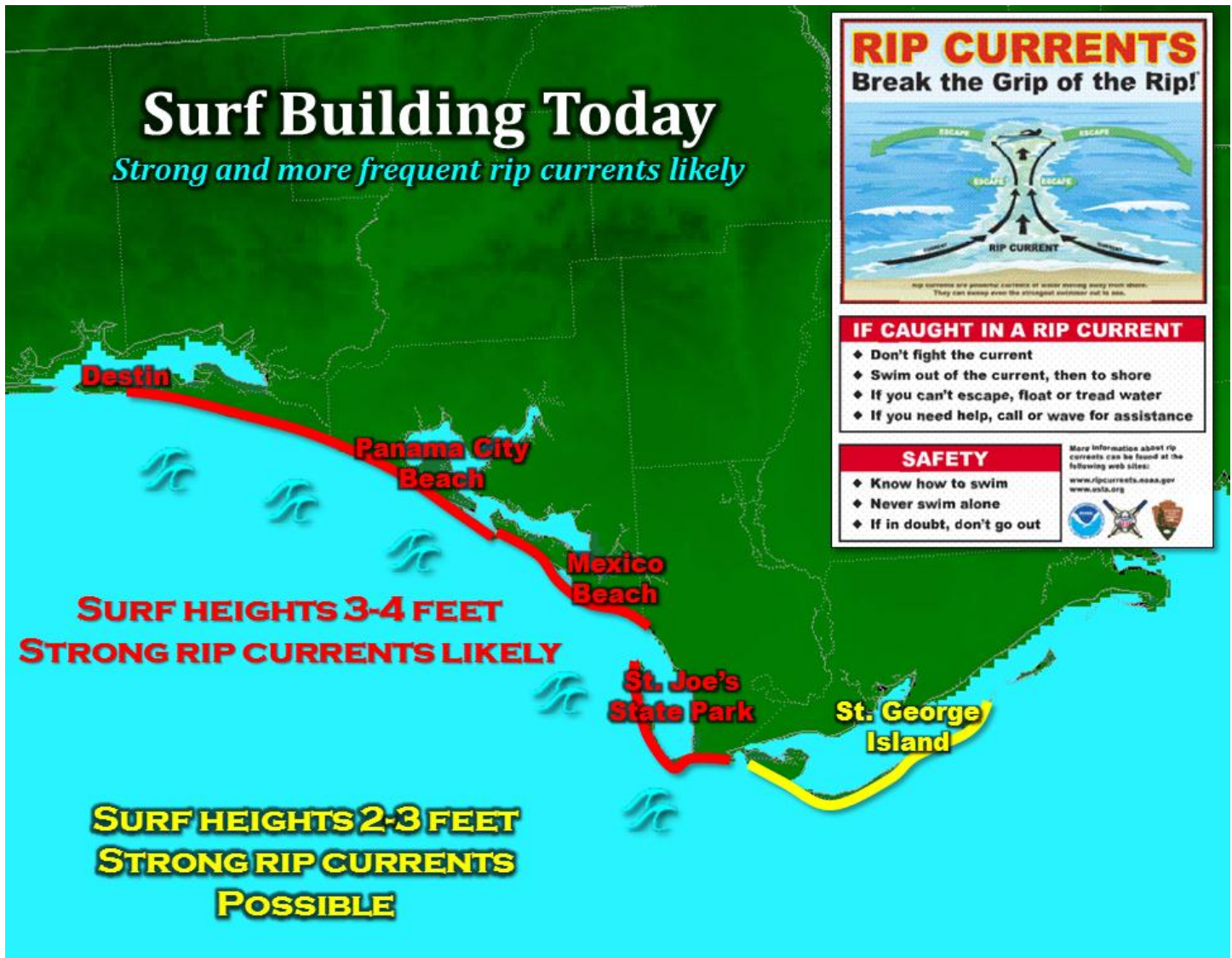
15% chance for damaging wind gusts within 25 miles of a point indicated in yellow in the left image. This is analogous to a slight risk. The 5% risk area is brown. The Image on the right shows the risk for a tornado within 25 miles of a point. Note the 5% risk area in brown over the northern portion of the forecast area.

Impacts

We continue to monitor the storm system across the Southeast U.S. this morning as it moves eastward toward our region. We still believe that the severe weather potential with this system will be rather low. While very strong wind shear is certainly present across our region at this time, instability is expected to remain very low today due to extensive cloud cover. If some of these clouds thin out later this morning and afternoon and allow for some sunshine to warm things up, the severe weather potential would increase. The main focus for the storms will be an inland retreat outflow boundary which should be oriented roughly within the slight risk area by this afternoon.

At this time, the expectation is for showers and thunderstorms to increase from the west after 9 am ET (8 am CT) and then spread eastward across much of the area through the day. Should a severe weather threat materialize, we anticipate the window of severe weather activity to occur between 12 pm ET (11 am CT) and 7 pm ET (6 pm CT).

The primary concern with these storms will be the potential for strong gusty to damaging straight line winds of 40 to 60 mph. These winds can push over small to medium size trees or even push over some power lines. An isolated tornado is also possible in the afternoon hours with the strongest storms.



Another concern today is increasing onshore flow and associated building surf. Expected conditions will support a high risk for rip current along the Florida Panhandle coast, mainly from Cape San Blas westward.

Summary:

- Severe thunderstorms are possible today, but the threat is conditional.
- Damaging winds are the main threat, but hail and even a brief tornado can't be ruled out.
- High risk for rip currents along the Florida Panhandle coast.

The National Weather Service in Tallahassee will continue to monitor this situation. If you have any questions, please give our office a call at 850-942-8833 or on our toll free line at 800-598-4562 and ask to speak to a meteorologist. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also reach us on our Southern Linc phone at 1*77*184.